

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for handling eCommerce requests, comprising:

(a) at least one application configured to process a request in a transformed format, wherein the request is received from one of a plurality of requesting entities in an original format and mapped to the transformed format;

(b) at least one specification document configured to produce metadata defining a relationship between data of the request in the original format and data of the request in the transformed format, wherein the metadata comprises a plurality of metadata instances each configured to support a different request protocol; and

(c) a flow manager configured to utilize the metadata to map the request in the original format to the request in the transformed format and to call the at least one application.

2. (Canceled) The system of claim 1, wherein the metadata comprises a plurality of metadata instances each configured to support a different request protocol.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the data of the request in the original format comprises fields and wherein the metadata maps the fields to input fields of the at least one application.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the request is a purchase order and the data comprises fields of the purchase order.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a front-end gateway in communication with the flow manager via a transport mechanism and configured to receive requests from the plurality of requesting entities.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the front-end gateway is configured to translate the request into a protocol understandable by the flow manager.
7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the protocol understandable to the flow manager is XML.
8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the original format comprises at least one of cXML, mXML, xCBL, OCI, and ebXML.
9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one specification document comprises at least one of:
 - message formatting rules comprising definitional data and configured to define an association between the definitional data and the data of the request in the original format;
 - an access method configured to define an interface to the at least one application; and
 - a process flow model configured to associate the message formatting rules and the access method instance and comprising mapping rules configured to map input fields of the request in the original format to input fields of the at least one application.
10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the association is between a first plurality of fields of the definitional data and a second plurality of fields of the data of the request in the original format.
11. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein each access method is configured to support applications of a particular application type.
12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the particular application type comprises at least one of program calls, JAVA programs, and queue applications.

Please add the following new claims:

13. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one specification document comprises:

message formatting rules comprising definitional data and configured to define an association between the definitional data and the data of the request in the original format;

an access method configured to define an interface to the appropriate one of the plurality of applications; and

a process flow model configured to associate the message formatting rules and the access method instance and comprising mapping rules configured to map input fields of the request in the original format to input fields of the appropriate one of the plurality of applications.

14. (New) A system for handling eCommerce requests, comprising:

(a) a plurality of applications each configured to process requests in a respective, transformed format, wherein the respective transformed formats are different from one another, wherein each request is received from one of a plurality of requesting entities in an original format and mapped to one of the respective transformed formats;

(b) at least one specification document for each respective, transformed format configured to produce metadata defining a relationship between data of a request in the original format and data of the request in the transformed format; and

(c) a flow manager configured to utilize the metadata to map the request in the original format to the request in the transformed format and to call an appropriate one of the plurality of applications according to the transformed format.

15. (New) The system of claim 14, wherein the metadata comprises a plurality of metadata instances each configured to support a different request protocol.

16. (New) The system of claim 14, wherein the data of the request in the original format comprises fields and wherein the metadata maps the fields to input fields of an appropriate one of the plurality of applications.

17. (New) The system of claim 14, wherein the at least one specification document comprises:

message formatting rules comprising definitional data and configured to define an association between the definitional data and the data of the request in the original format;

an access method configured to define an interface to an appropriate one of the plurality of applications, dependent on the request; and

a process flow model configured to associate the message formatting rules and the access method instance and comprising mapping rules configured to map input fields of the request in the original format to input fields of the appropriate one of the plurality of applications.